

CROYDON PHILATELIC SOCIETY:
NOTES OF THE MEETING HELD 24 September 2019.

President **Graham Harker** opened the proceedings at 19.35 hours and welcomed the speaker **Terry Page** to show his **Russia – Zemstvo Postal History** material. He also thanked him for standing in at short notice for the listed speaker who was unable to attend. **Graham** also welcomed the turnout of 16 members who were present .



Terry explained that the Zemstvo stamp was a Russian local stamp used widely in rural areas from 1865. It was named after the Zemstvo local administrative districts that were created in 1864 to provide local services to country areas as the Imperial Post was based mainly in towns. The stamps ceased at about the time of the 1917 Russian Revolution. In all there were 33 different Zemstvo postal districts and 160 different Zemstvo issuers some of which provided a free service. There were 371 Zemstvo districts in European Russia, 164 of which issued postal stationery or Post Office stationery.

On show was an A to Z of these fascinating issues both as stamps, blocks and used on cover from these local areas, some with combinations of Zemstvos from different areas and also with Imperial Postage stamps. Covers to and from foreign countries, bearing Zemstvos were also shown. Throughout the exhibit many items were described as known in small numbers of less than 4 – a truly stunning display.

President Graham thanked **Terry** for the quality and rarity of the material and likewise his phenomenal knowledge of his collection and how grateful we were for him coming at such short notice. The audience expressed its appreciation in the normal way. **Graham** thanked the tea makers and brought the meeting to a close at 21.30 hours.

Graham Harker/Brian Asquith
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